

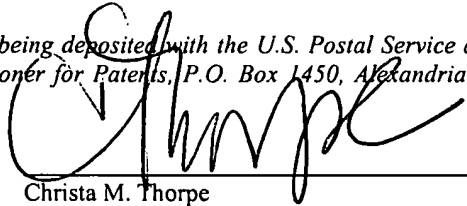


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PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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Christa M. Thorpe

Applicant : Xian Yao, et al.  
Application No. : 10/731,710  
Filed : December 9, 2003  
  
Title : METHOD FOR FORMING ULTRA HARD SINTERED COMPACTS  
USING METALLIC PERIPHERAL STRUCTURES IN THE SINTERING  
CELL  
  
Grp./Div. : 1742  
Examiner : To Be Assigned  
  
Docket No. : 50547/CM/M277

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT  
37 CFR § 1.97(b)

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Post Office Box 7068  
Pasadena, CA 91109-7068  
July 22, 2004

Commissioner:

In compliance with the duty of disclosure under 37 CFR §§ 1.56, 1.97 and 1.98, and in accordance with the provisions in the Manual of Patent Examining Procedure §§ 609 and 707.05(b), enclosed is FORM PTO/SB/08A/B listing the references that are known to applicant. Copies of each of the listed references are enclosed. This filing is timely because it is made during one of the periods described in 37 CFR § 1.97(b).

It is respectfully requested that the listed references be considered in the examination of this application and identified on the list of references cited on the patent issuing for this application.

**Application No. 10/731,710**

Applicant also requests that an initialed copy of FORM PTO/SB/08A/B be entered in the application file and returned to applicant with the next communication from the Office in accordance with MPEP § 609.

Respectfully submitted,

CHRISTIE PARKER & HALE, LLP

By 

Constantine Maçantidis

Reg. No. 39,759

626/795-9900

CM/cmt

Enclosures: Form PTO/SB/08A/B (w/ References)

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FORM PTO/SB/08A/B (10-01) Substitute for PTO-1449A/B  <b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE</b>  <b>STATEMENT BY APPLICANT</b>  (use as many sheets as necessary)	<b>Attorney Docket Number</b>	<b>50547/CM/M277</b>
	<b>Application Number</b>	10/731,710
	<b>Filing Date</b>	December 9, 2003
	<b>Applicant(s)</b>	Xian Yao, et al.
	<b>Group Art Unit</b>	1742
	<b>Examiner Name</b>	To Be Assigned

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS				
EXAMINER INITIALS	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	DOCUMENT NUMBER Number - Kind Code <sup>2</sup> (If Known)	PUBLICATION DATE MM-DD-YYYY	NAME OF PATENTEE
		4,259,090	03-31-1981	Bovenkerk
		4,702,649	10-27-1987	Komanduri
		4,997,049	03-05-1991	Tank et al.
		5,173,090	12-22-1992	Scott et al.

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS					
EXAMINER INITIALS	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Foreign Patent Document Country Code <sup>3</sup> - Number <sup>4</sup> - Kind Code <sup>5</sup> (If Known)	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	T <sup>6</sup> (✓)

OTHER DOCUMENTS		
EXAMINER INITIALS	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article, title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.

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EXAMINER SIGNATURE	DATE CONSIDERED
EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. <sup>1</sup> Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). <sup>2</sup> See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.pto.gov or MPEP 901.4. <sup>3</sup> Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO standard ST.3). <sup>4</sup> For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. <sup>5</sup> Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.16 if possible. <sup>6</sup> Applicant is to place a check mark here if English Language Translation is attached.	

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